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TAGS: OAS PREL PHUM XM XL XS
SUBJECT: VENEZUELA COUP ATTEMPT AT OAS: QUICK CONDEMNATION OF COUP
PLOTTERS, ALL-AROUND SUPPORT FOR CAP; COMMENT ON HAITI, OAS
MECHANISMS TO DEFEND DEMOCRACY
ROME ALSO FOR VATICAN, BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEC, VIENNA ALSO FOR
USDEL CSEM, USVIENNA FOR CFE

FROM U.S. MISSION TO THE OAS

SUMMARY

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1. IN A 3-HOUR MEETING THAT ONLY ENDED AFTER ALL 31
MEMBER STATES PRESENT HAD SPOKEN, THE OAS PERMANENT
COUNCIL -- CALLED FEB. 4 AT THE REQUEST OF NICARAGUA,

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COSTA RICA, AND COLOMBIA -- CONDEMNED THE COUP ATTEMPT IN VENEZUELA THAT MORNING, BACKED VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT PEREZ, AND REAFFIRMED THE COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY MADE IN THE LANDMARK OAS RESOLUTION PASSED AT THE 1991 SANTIAGO GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE FULL TEXT OF THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION -- WITH 29 COUNTRY SPONSORS -- IS AT PARA 46.

2. STRONGEST STATEMENTS CAME FROM ARGENTINA, NICARAGUA, PANAMA, SURINAME AND THE UNITED STATES. TWENTY-TWO DELEGATIONS, MOST OF THEM FROM CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, PAID SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO CAP FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS AS A REGIONAL LEADER. EIGHT DELEGATIONS (ARGENTINA, THE UNITED STATES, NICARAGUA, COSTA RICA, JAMAICA, PANAMA, ANTIGUA, HAITI) WENT BEYOND THE LANGUAGE OF THE RESOLUTION TO LINK THE COUP ATTEMPT IN VENEZUELA TO THE COUP IN HAITI. FIFTEEN, MOST PROMINENTLY ARGENTINA, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VENEZUELA, PANAMA, THE U.S., AND SEVERAL CARIBBEANS, CALLED FOR STRONGER OAS MECHANISMS TO DEFEND DEMOCRACY. OTHERS EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT VENEZUELA'S CASE IS NOT ISOLATED (SEE PANAMA, PARA 22) AND SMALLER STATES MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO RESIST COUPS EFFECTIVELY, AS VENEZUELA HAD (SEE ANTIGUA, PARA 25). THE MEXICAN STATEMENT WAS NOTICEABLY WEAK.

3. U.S. PERMREP EINAUDI CITED PRESIDENT BUSH'S STATEMENT OF SUPPORT TO CAP AND CONDEMNATION OF THE COUP, NOTED THAT COUPS ARE AN ISSUE IN THE HEMISPHERE NOT JUST FOR SMALL COUNTRIES, AND POINTED OUT THAT THE PEOPLE OF VENEZUELA INCLUDING MOST OF THE VENEZUELAN MILITARY DID NOT SUPPORT THE COUP. EINAUDI ALSO SUGGESTED WAYS FOR THE OAS TO DEAL MORE EFFECTIVELY WITH COUP AND DEMOCRACY ISSUES: BY STRENGTHENING THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND HIS NEW DEMOCRACY UNIT; BY REEXAMINING THE JURIDICAL INSTRUMENTS OF THE OAS, I.E. THE CHARTER, WITH A VIEW TO SUPPORTING CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACIES, AND USING THE INTER-AMERICAN DEFENSE BOARD; AND BY CHANGING THE OAS' STYLE AND APPROACH--MAKING IT MORE ACTIVE--IN DEALING WITH DEMOCRACY ISSUES. FULL TEXT OF EINAUDI STATEMENT SEPTTEL. SEE PARAS 32 TO 34. END SUMMARY

OAS CONVENES QUICKLY, DECRIES COUP ATTEMPT UNANIMOUSLY
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4. THE OAS PERMANENT COUNCIL WAS CALLED INTO EXTRAORDINARY SESSION FEB. 4 BY NICARAGUA, COSTA RICA AND

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COLOMBIA TO CONSIDER THE FAILED COUP ATTEMPT IN VENEZUELA
EARLIER THE SAME DAY. THE THREE MEMBER STATES CIRCULATED
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A STRONG RESOLUTION THAT CONDEMNED THE COUP ATTEMPT AND
REPORTED ATTEMPT ON VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES
PEREZ'S (CAP) LIFE, STATED FIRM SUPPORT FOR CAP, AND
RESTATED THE OAS COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY MADE IN A
LANDMARK RESOLUTION AT THE 1991 SANTIAGO GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

5. WITH ONLY MINOR CHANGES, THE DRAFT RESOLUTION WAS
QUICKLY ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY (FULL TEXT AT PARA XX). ITS
29 CO-SPONSORS WERE ANTIGUA/BARBUDA, ARGENTINA, BAHAMAS,
BARBADOS, BELIZE, BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, CANADA, COLOMBIA, COSTA
RICA, CHILE, ECUADOR, EL SALVADOR, U.S., GRENADA,
GUATEMALA, HAITI, HONDURAS, JAMAICA, MEXICO, NICARAGUA,
PANAMA, PARAGUAY, PERU, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, SURINAME,
TRINIDAD/TOBAGO, URUGUAY, AND VENEZUELA. SEVERAL
CARIBBEAN MICROSTATE DELEGATIONS -- AS IS USUALLY THE CASE
-- WERE ABSENT.

VENEZUELAN STATEMENT: NONE IMMUNE TO VIRUS OF GOLPISMO

6. VENEZUELA'S OAS PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE AMB GUIDO
GROOSCORS LED OFF DELEGATION COMMENT AFTER ADOPTION OF THE
RESOLUTION, COMBINING SINCERE THANKS FOR OAS QUICK ACTION
WITH THE SOBERING OBSERVATION THAT EVENTS OF FEB. 4 MAKE
CLEAR THAT THE NOW OVERWHELMINGLY DEMOCRATIC HEMISPHERE
CAN NOT "SLEEP ON ITS (DEMOCRATIC) LAURELS."

7. GROOSCORS GAVE A SUMMARY OF EVENTS RELATED TO THE
FAILED COUP ATTEMPT, CONCLUDING THAT THE ATTEMPT "LEAVES A
LESSON WE ALL SHOULD EXAMINE HERE AT THE OAS: THAT THE
'VIRUS' OF 'GOLPISMO' PERSISTS, AND NONE OF OUR COUNTRIES
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IS IMMUNE."

8. GROOSCORS HIGHLIGHTED VENEZUELA'S 34 YEARS OF
"AUTHENTIC" DEMOCRACY, NOTING THAT PEACEFUL CHANGES OF
GOVERNMENTS FROM ONE IDEOLOGY TO ANOTHER HAD OCCURRED OVER
THE YEARS "WITHOUT TRAUMA, ACCUSATIONS OF ELECTORAL FRAUD,
OR VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS." VENEZUELA, HE CONTINUED,

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IS A "GENUINE AMERICAN DEMOCRACY" WHICH HAS TRIED, THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS, TO PROMOTE THE EXTENSION OF DEMOCRACY TO "ALL PEOPLES OF OUR HEMISPHERE."

9. WHILE WORRIED ABOUT THE "ATTACK ON VENEZUELAN DEMOCRACY", GROOSCORS CONTINUED, HIS GOVERNMENT WAS NONETHELESS HEARTENED BY THE OUTPOURING OF SUPPORT RECEIVED AS EVENTS UNFOLDED. GROOSCORS MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY THE EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT RECEIVED FROM "NEARLY ALL LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS," THE U.S., SPAIN, FRANCE, AND (COLLECTIVELY) THE RIO GROUP.

10. LIKEWISE, HE ADDED, THE EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRACY IN THE FEB. 4 OAS RESOLUTION MEANS "INTEREST IN THE DEFENSE OF DEMOCRACY, AND NOT JUST FOR A FEW: DEMOCRACY IS GENERALIZED IN OUR REGION; DEMOCRACY HAS ARRIVED IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN; TO SEE THAT WE DON'T LOSE IT, WE MUST WORK TO STRENGTHEN IT."

VENEZUELA: OAS SHOULD HAVE "STRONGER" PRO-DEMOCRACY TOOLS

11. GROOSCORS HAD HIGH PRAISE FOR THE OAS'S QUICK REACTION -- "LIKE NEVER BEFORE" -- TO VENEZUELA'S
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SITUATION, AND CITED A 1991 OAS RESOLUTION THAT CREATED AN OAS AUTOMATIC COUP RESPONSE MECHANISM (USOAS COMMENT: THE MECHANISM WAS EMPLOYED TO RESPOND TO THE SEPTEMBER 30 HAITI COUP. END COMMENT). NOTABLY, WITHOUT ELABORATING, GROOSCORS SAID IT WOULD BE "WORTHWHILE" TO GIVE OAS EVEN "STRONGER" TOOLS TO REACT TO THREATS TO DEMOCRACY. (USOAS COMMENT: THE OAS CHARTER MAKES NO PROVISION FOR COERCIVE ACTION, AND WWII-ERA RIO TREATY ON DEFENSE IS ORIENTED TO THREATS FROM OUTSIDE THE HEMISPHERE.)

12. "WE CAN'T SLEEP ON OUR LAURELS", SAID GROOSCORS: THE FAILED COUP ATTEMPT IN VENEZUELA, "AFTER 25 YEARS OF DEMOCRACY, INDICATES TO US THAT IN THE FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY, WE MUST STAY ALERT."

13. GROOSCORS THEN DESCRIBED THE "PARADE" OF PROMINENT VENEZUELAN THAT LINED UP THIS MORNING TO SUPPORT CAP AND THE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT, CITING THE COPEI AND ACCION DEMOCRATICA LEADERSHIP, LABOR LEADERS, WORKERS, AND MANY OTHERS. THE ABSENCE OF "FISSURES" IN THE DEFENSE OF VENEZUELAN DEMOCRACY, HE SAID, PERMITTED ISOLATION OF THE

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MILITARY UPRISING. GROOSCORS HIGHLIGHTED THE APPARENT ABSENCE OF CIVILIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE PLOT, CALLING THIS A "GREAT STEP FORWARD," SINCE TRADITIONALLY LATIN AMERICAN CIVILIANS HAVE "INCITED COUPS, WHILE THE SOLDIERS CARRIED THEM OUT."

14. GROOSCOR CLOSED WITH REFERENCES TO THE RESILIENCY OF VENEZUELAN DEMOCRACY -- WHICH, HE SAID, COULD HAVE WITHSTOOD CAP'S MURDER -- AND THE SOLDIERS' "SERIOUS MISTAKE" IN THINKING THAT EITHER THE VENEZUELAN ARMED

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FORCES OR PEOPLE WOULD SUPPORT A COUP. CLOSING, GROOSCORS REITERATED THANKS TO THE OAS FOR ITS "EXTRAORDINARY EXPRESSION OF SOLIDARITY."

OTHER DELEGATIONS' STATEMENTS

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15. NICARAGUA'S ACTING PERMREP, VICTOR SILVA, READ HIS GOVERNMENT'S OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON THE FAILED COUP, BUT THEN ASKED THE PROVOCATIVE QUESTION "IN LIGHT OF VENEZUELA, WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN HAITI?" AS LONG AS THERE IS "NO FIRM SOLUTION" IN HAITI, HE ADDED, THAT COUNTRY'S CONTINUING EXISTENCE UNDER A MILITARY-INSTALLED GOVERNMENT IS A "BAD EXAMPLE." NICARAGUA, SILVA CLOSED, IS READY TO CONVENE A MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS IF NECESSARY TO DEAL WITH REPERCUSSIONS FROM THE VENEZUELA SITUATION AS THEY MIGHT AFFECT HAITI.

16. COLOMBIA'S PERMREP, AMB JULIO LONDONO, STATED BOGOTA'S "UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT" FOR VENEZUELAN DEMOCRACY. AMERICA IS "NO LONGER FERTILE GROUND" FOR COUP-MAKERS, HE CONTINUED, AND "PRETEXTS" OF YORE LIKE "SUPPOSED SALVATION OF ORDER AND THE CONSTITUTION" NO LONGER SERVE. "THOSE WHO PRETEND TO GENERATE CHAOS", HE SAID, "WILL BE LEFT BEHIND."

17. COSTAN RICAN PERMREP CARLOS PEREIRA ECHOED THE STRONG STATEMENTS OF NICARAGUA AND COLOMBIA -- HIS PARTNERS IN CONVENING THE FEB. 4 PERMANENT COUNCIL MEETING -- AND WARNED THAT THE "PEOPLE OF AMERICA CAN NOT ALLOW THEMSELVES" TO BE VICTIMIZED AGAIN AND AGAIN BY MILITARY

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18. IN ARGENTINA'S STRONG STATEMENT, PERMREP HERNAN PATINO MEYER CITED THE "IMMEDIACY" OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL'S MEETING AND RESOLUTION AS SYMBOLIC OF THE REGION'S SOLIDARITY. THE REGION'S COMMITMENT, HE SAID, GOES "BEYOND FORMAL MECHANISMS," AND IS IN REALITY A "COMMITMENT TO THE VITALITY OF DEMOCRACY." PATINO CALLED THE OAS THE "ONLY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION THAT HAS ENSHRINED DEMOCRACY AS A COMMON VALUE WHICH IT IS READY TO DEFEND." PATINO ECHOED GROOSCOR'S CALL FOR STRONGER OAS PRO-DEMOCRACY TOOLS, AND NOTED THAT THE REGION IS TRADING ITS OLD TRADITION OF MILITARY COUPS FOR A NEW TRADITION OF MILITARY COMMITMENT TO PEOPLES AND DEMOCRACY. PATINO FORCEFULLY EXPRESSED A THEME SOUNDED BY OTHERS: WE ARE NOT DEFENDING THE DEMOCRACY OF ONE COUNTRY, BUT RATHER DEMOCRACY IN ALL OUR COUNTRIES.

19. JAMAICAN PERMREP RICHARD BERNAL OBSERVED THAT THE FEB. 4 OAS MEETING PRESENTED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A "DETERMINED REAFFIRMATION" OF THE REGION'S COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY. BERNAL WAS THE FIRST OF SEVERAL TO RECALL CAP'S APRIL 1990 ADDRESS TO THE OAS VIGOROUSLY CALLING FOR THE OAS TO DEFEND DEMOCRACY AND CITED PRIME MINISTER MANLEY'S STATEMENT ON THE COUP ATTEMPT. THE LESSON OF VENEZUELA AND HAITI, BERNAL SAID, WAS THAT CONTINUITY OF DEMOCRACY CANNOT BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED; IT REQUIRES CONSTANT VIGILANCE. THIS WAS A RECURRING THEME IN OTHERS' REMARKS. JAMAICA, BERNAL SAID IN CLOSING, WAS "ALARMED" BY EVENTS IN VENEZUELA, BUT "TREMENDOUSLY HEARTENED" BY THE SOLIDARITY DISPLAYED IN THE REGION'S RESPONSE.

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20. CHILEAN PERMREP HERALDO MUNOZ EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE COLLECTIVE RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS, OBSERVING THAT THE AUTHORS OF THE COUP "NOT ONLY EARNED OUR CONDEMNATION FOR AN ASSAULT ON VENEZUELAN DEMOCRACY, BUT ALSO FOR THEIR VIOLATIONS OF REGIONAL PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY, AND THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE HISTORIC TREND IN THE HEMISPHERE TOWARD LIBERTY."

21. ECUADOR'S PERMREP MIGUEL VASCO SAID THAT THE "VIOLENT AND IRRATIONAL USE OF FORCE CANNOT DEFEAT SOVEREIGNTY OF THE PEOPLE FREELY EXPRESSED AT THE BALLOT BOX."

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22. PANAMA'S PERMREP, LAWRENCE CHEWNING FABREGA, CALLED FOR SETTING A DATE FOR A MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS (MFM) TO CONSIDER WAYS TO CONFRONT THE CHALLENGES TO DEMOCRACY IN THE HEMISPHERE. (USOAS COMMENT: THIS MFM WAS FIRST PROPOSED BY VENEZUELA IN EARLY 1991 IN RESPONSE TO THE DECEMBER 1990 SURINAME COUP, BUT NEVER CONVENED. END COMMENT) CHEWNING ASSERTED THAT THE PRESTIGE OF THE OAS AND THE FATE OF FRAGILE DEMOCRACIES (E.G. PANAMA AND NICARAGUA) ARE AT STAKE. "IF THE MOST STABLE DEMOCRACIES LIKE VENEZUELA CAN BE THE SUBJECT OF A COUP ATTEMPT, WHAT ABOUT FRAGILE ONES LIKE PANAMA?" CHEWNING ASKED. CHEWNING VOICED STRONGLY A WIDER CONCERN. OBSERVING THAT "AFTER 4 MONTHS THERE HAS BEEN NO SOLUTION," HE ASKED, "IF THE HAITI COUP IS (ULTIMATELY) SUCCESSFUL, WHAT DEMOCRACIES WILL BE ABLE TO RESIST COUP ATTEMPTS?" "THE OAS", HE SAID, "IS NOT PERSUASIVE OR 'COERCIVE' ENOUGH TO PREVENT COUPS; WE MUST CONSIDER WAYS TO MAKE IT TRULY EFFECTIVE AND OPERATIONAL TO DEFEND AND CONSOLIDATE DEMOCRATIC

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INSTITUTIONS." "VENEZUELA," HE SAID, "IS NOT AN ISOLATED CASE."

23. DOMINICAN REPUBLIC PERMREP ELADIO KNIPPING VOICED CATEGORICAL, ENERGETIC REJECTION OF THE COUP.

24. CANADIAN PERMREP JEAN PAUL HUBERT ASSERTED THAT "A MUGGING HAS TAKEN PLACE," INCLUDING AN ATTEMPT ON CAP'S LIFE. "IT IS A SAD COINCIDENCE -- PERHAPS NOT A COINCIDENCE AT ALL", HE SAID, "THAT THIS ASSAULT COMES AGAINST A LEADER AND COUNTRY THAT HAS PLAYED SUCH IMPORTANT ROLES IN THE RENEWAL OF THE OAS. WE MUST BE VIGILANT IN DEFENSE AND CONSOLIDATION OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS."

25. ANTIGUA/BARBUDA AMB PATRICK LEWIS NOTED THAT, "HAD THE COUP IN HAITI BEEN RESOLVED (BY OAS ACTION), THE COUP IN VENEZUELA MIGHT HAVE BEEN AVOIDED. WE NEED NEW WAYS TO CONFRONT THE HAITI CRISIS, INCLUDING PERHAPS CONSIDERING CONVENING AN MFM TO CONSIDER OPTIONS."

26. TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ALTREP RAMBISOON READ HIS GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT WHICH EXPRESSED "TOTAL CONDEMNATION OF THE COUP ATTEMPT" WHICH "RUNS COUNTER TO THE DEMOCRATIC CURRENT" OF THE TIMES.

27. PARAGUAYAN ALTREP BOBADILLA-GUILLEN CITED HIS

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GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT OF THE SANTIAGO COMMITMENT TO
DEMOCRACY (OASGA 91) AS A BASIS FOR COSPONSORING THE
COUNCIL RESOLUTION.

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28. SALVADORAN PERMREP GRANILLO LAUDED VENEZUELA'S
CONTRIBUTION TO THE DIALOGUE IN EL SALVADOR AND RESULTING
PEACE ACCORD, CALLING VENEZUELA AN "OASIS OF DEMOCRACY"
AND "FRIEND" OF EL SALVADOR.

29. GUATEMALAN ALTREP ANDRADE READ PRESIDENT SERRANO'S
STATEMENT AND CALLED THE COUP ATTEMPT AN "AFFRONT TO THE
SOVEREIGN WILL OF THE PEOPLES OF THE AMERICAS."

30. BAHAMIAN ALTREP BETHEL CALLED THE COUP ATTEMPT AN ACT
OF "COWARDS" AND SAID THE BAHAMAS "APPLAUDS AND SALUTES
CAP AND THE PEOPLE OF VENEZUELA."

31. SURINAME'S PERMREP UDENHOUT CITED CAP FOR "COURAGE IN
LEADING THE DEFEAT OF A VIOLENT ATTEMPT AGAINST
DEMOCRACY." HE SAID SURINAME SHARES THE PERCEPTION THAT
IF A COUNTRY LIKE VENEZUELA (WHERE DEMOCRACY "HAS TAKEN
ROOT") COULD SUFFER A COUP ATTEMPT, OTHERS MUST BE MUCH
MORE VULNERABLE. CITING A POINT MADE BY PRESIDENT
VENETIANNE TO PRESIDENT BUSH IN TALKS THE PREVIOUS DAY,
UDENHOUT SAID VENEZUELA'S CASE PROVES THAT ONLY STRONG
INSTITUTIONS CAN WITHSTAND COUP ATTEMPTS (UNDERSCORING GOS
INTEREST IN SUPPORT FOR STRENGTHENING ITS DEMOCRATIC
INSTITUTIONS, IN PARTICULAR FROM THE OAS DEMOCRACY UNIT.)

SUMMARY OF U.S. STATEMENT

32. U.S. PERMREP EINAUDI SAID THE USG WAS PROUD TO
COSPONSOR THE RESOLUTION AND IT REFLECTED THE U.S.
POSITION "PRECISELY." HE CITED PRESIDENT BUSH'S MIDDLE OF
THE NIGHT CALL TO CAP AND EXPLICIT PLEDGE OF SUPPORT

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IMMEDIATELY AFTER WORD OF THE ONSET OF THE COUP ATTEMPT.
EINAUDI COMMENTED ON VENEZUELA'S 34 YEARS OF UNINTERRUPTED
DEMOCRATIC PROCESS WHICH MADE, HE SAID, THE COUP ATTEMPT
"SURPRIZING" AND RIGHTLY TO BE CONDEMNED. HE CALLED CAP
ONE OF LATIN AMERICA'S LEADER IN DEVELOPING AND ADVANCING

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DEMOCRATIC DOCTRINE. EINAUDI NOTED THAT THE VENEZUELAN PEOPLE DID NOT SUPPORT THE ATTEMPTED COUP AND "MOST OF VENEZUELA'S MILITARY HONORED THEIR UNIFORM" AND THIS WAS ONE REASON THE COUP ATTEMPT FAILED. CONCLUDING PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS, EINAUDI REPORTED THAT ALL 20,000 U.S. CITIZENS IN VENEZUELA ARE SAFE AND UNAFFECTED BY THE COUP.

33. REFLECTING MORE BROADLY ON EVENTS, EINAUDI SAID SUPPORT FOR THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION "REAFFIRMS" THE SANTIAGO COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY AND RESOLUTION 1080 (OASGA 91). EVENTS IN HAITI, HE CONTINUED, SHOWED THAT DEFENDING DEMOCRACY IS COMPLICATED; THE COUP ATTEMPT IN VENEZUELA MAKES EVIDENT THE ISSUE IS "NOT JUST FOR SMALL COUNTRIES."

34. CONSULTATION WITHIN THE USG, EINAUDI SAID, SUGGESTED TWO WAYS IN WHICH RESOLUTION 1080 COULD BE STRENGTHENED. (RES. 1080, THE "ANTI-COUP MECHANISM" CALLS FOR AN "AUTOMATIC" MEETING OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS TO DECIDE ON MEASURES IN THE EVENT OF COUP AGAINST A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT) FIRST IS BY STRENGTHENING THE SECRETARIAT, DEMOCRACY UNIT, AND INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, AS WELL AS THEIR COORDINATION. THE SECOND IS THROUGH JURIDICAL INSTRUMENTS AND CHANGES OF HABIT. THE OAS CHARTER, EINAUDI SUGGESTED, COULD BE REVIEWED AS TO
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HOW IT MIGHT MORE EFFECTIVELY LEND ITSELF TO SUPPORTING DEMOCRACY. AS TO HABITS (OR THE "SPIRIT, STYLE, AND APPROACH" OF MEMBER STATES), UNDO "CAUTION OR SILENCE," CAN LEAD TO "IMPOSITION BY SMALL ARMED MINORITIES (OF THEIR WILL OVER THAT OF THE PEOPLE). PATIENCE, CONSULTATION, AND "NO IMPOSITIONS" SHOULD BE THE HALLMARKS OF A STRENGTHENED APPROACH TO DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.

END SUMMARY OF U.S. STATEMENT

35. GRENADIAN PERMREP MODESTE IN REMARKS THAT CITED GRENADA'S "EXCELLENT" RELATIONS TO VENEZUELA AND LINKED DEMOCRACY TO SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CALLED ON THE MILITARY TO "RETURN TO THE BARRACKS."

36. BOLIVIA'S ALTREP LOPEZ BRIEFLY BUT FORCEFULLY CONDEMNED THE COUP AND AFFIRMED SUPPORT FOR THE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT PEREZ.

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37. HAITI'S PERMREP CASIMIR LAUDED CAP FOR HIS HELP TO PRESIDENT ARISTIDE AND CONDEMNED THE COUP ATTEMPT AS A CHALLENGE TO THE POPULAR WILL, THE EFFORT OF "MARGINAL FACTORS" TO OVERCOME THE RULE OF LAW. HE ATTRIBUTED IT TO "POCKETS, BANDS IN THE ARMED FORCES."

38. MEXICAN ALTREP AMBASSADOR PEDRAJA CONDEMNED THE COUP, ASSOCIATED THE GOM WITH THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION AND EXPRESSED SATISFACTION FOR THE RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC RULE IN VENEZUELA.

39. PERU'S PERMREP MARCHAND, ASKING RHETORICALLY HOW SUCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A SMALL BAND (OF GOLPISTAS) COULD ATTEMPT TO SUBVERT A WHOLE NATION, SAID "ALL DEMOCRACIES (OF THE REGION) HAVE AN ACHILLES HEEL: ... CRITICAL POVERTY." "SEVERE ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT PACKAGES EXACT A PAINFUL ECONOMIC COST ... TERRORISTS AND COUP PLOTTERS MANIPULATE THE PROBLEMS WHICH STEM FROM POVERTY." CITING THE SANTIAGO COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY (OASGA 91), MARCHAND CALLED FOR SOLIDARITY IN COMBATTING POVERTY AND A GOAL OF "INTEGRAL SECURITY."

40. URUGUAY'S ALTREP GONZALEZ GUYER IDENTIFYING URUGUAY WITH THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION SAID EVENTS IN VENEZUELA INDICATED THE NEED FOR VIGILANCE: "NOT BE BE ASLEEP AT THE HELM."

41. HONDURAN ALT REP MONTOYA CASTRO SAID THAT TO "DEFEND DEMOCRACY IS AN OBLIGATION WITHOUT BORDERS" AND ATTRIBUTED THE COUP ATTEMPT TO A "SMALL GROUP OF THE MILITARY."

42. BELIZEAN PERMREP HYDE RECALLED VENEZUELAN PERMREP GROSSCORS' METAPHOR SAYING, "VIRUS OF MILITARY COUPS STILL CONTINUES IN THE REGION." THE BARBADIAN PERMREP SOUNDED THE THEME OF VIGILANCE AND GUYANESE ALTREP MURRAY EXPRESSED HIS COUNTRY'S SHOCK AND CONDEMNATION OF THE ATTEMPT AND SAID IT WAS HEARTENED THAT THE COUP FAILED.

43. ST. LUCIA'S PERMREP EDMUNDS CALLED CAP A "CHAMPION OF DEMOCRACY" AND "FRIEND" OF THE CARIBBEAN. AND VIRTUALLY CONCLUDED THE COUNTRY REP REMARKS WITH A TELLING OBSERVATION: VENEZUELA COULD HANDLE THE COUP ATTEMPT DRAWING UPON SUBSTANTIAL "COUNTERVAILING FORCES" DOMESTICALLY; "WHAT ABOUT SMALL COUNTRIES?" EDMUNDS

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ASKED. THESE, HE SUGGESTED, WOULD NEED IN PARTICULAR TO
DRAW UPON SUPPORT EXTERNALLY.

44. BRAZIL'S PERMREP PERICAS, HAVING CHAIRED THE
THREE-HOUR SESSION EXPRESSED HIS COUNTRY'S VIEWS BRIEFLY,
CITING PRESIDENT COLLOR'S FIRM STATEMENT OF SUPPORT CAP.

45. THE SESSION CONCLUDED WITH FINAL REMARKS FROM
VENEZUELA'S GROOSCORS WHO SAID HE WAS "PROFOUNDLY MOVED"
BY THE DEMONSTRATION OF SOLIDARITY AND ADDED THANKS TO
SECGEN BAENA SOARES FOR MOVING ENERGETICALLY AND EARLY TO
CONDEMN THE COUP ATTEMPT.

TEXT OF FEB. 4 OAS RESOLUTION ON VENEZUELAN EVENTS

46. FULL TEXT OF FEB. 4 OAS PERMANENT COUNCIL RESOLUTION
ON VENEZUELAN EVENTS FOLLOWS:

(OFFICIAL ENGLISH TEXT OF OAS)

SUPPORT FOR THE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IN VENEZUELA
(FEBRUARY 4, 1992)

THE PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN
STATES,

MINDFUL THAT THAT THE WIDESPREAD EXISTENCE OF DEMOCRATIC
GOVERNMENTS GUARANTEES EFFECTIVE APPLICATION OF THE
PRINCIPLE SET FORTH IN THE CHARTER OF THE ORGANIZATION OF
AMERICAN STATES THAT THE SOLIDARITY OF THE MEMBER STATES
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AND THE HIGH AIMS WHICH ARE SOUGHT REQUIRE THE POLITICAL
ORGANIZATION OF THOSE STATES ON THE BASIS OF THE EFFECTIVE
EXERCISE OF REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY;

REAFFIRMING THE SANTIAGO COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY AND THE
RENOVATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM ADOPTED BY THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN THE TWENTY FIRST REGULAR SESSION;

IN VIEW OF THE EVENTS IN VENEZUELA EARLY THIS MORNING THAT
CONSTITUTE AN ATTEMPTED COUP D'ETAT TO OVERTHROW THE
LEGITIMATELY CONSTITUTED GOVERNMENT AND ASSASSINATE THE

UNCLASSIFIED

CHIEF OF STATE,

RESOLVES:

1. TO CONDEMN ENERGETICALLY THE ARMED UPRISING AGAINST THE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ, AS WELL AS THE CRIMINAL ATTEMPT AGAINST THE LIFE OF THE CHIEF OF STATE.

2. TO EXPRESS ITS REPUDIATION TO THOSE SECTORS THAT SOUGHT TO USURP BY FORCE THE POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY AND DEMOCRATIC WILL OF THE VENEZUELAN PEOPLE, AS REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED IN REGULAR, ONGOING ELECTORAL PROCESSES THAT HAVE ESTABLISHED A SOLID DEMOCRATIC TRADITION.

3. TO EXPRESS ITS RESOLUTE AND UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ AND TO CONGRATULATE THE PEOPLE OF VENEZUELA FOR THEIR ENERGETIC REACTION AGAINST THIS DEPLORABLE ATTEMPT TO DEFLECT IT FROM ITS CONSTITUTIONAL COURSE.

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4. TO REITERATE THE DECISION OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES TO RESPECT AND STRENGTHEN THE PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRATIC SOLIDARITY, AND TO ACT JOINTLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CHARTER AND THE SANTIAGO COMMITMENT, REAFFIRMING THAT THERE IS NO MORE ROOM IN THE HEMISPHERE FOR REGIMES THAT COME TO POWER BY FORCE.

5. TO ENTRUST TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL THE TRANSMITTAL OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA.

47. PORT AU PRINCE MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.

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